CONRAIL



December 5, 2003

Office of Proceedings

DEC -5 2003



Hon. Vernon A. Williams Secretary Surface Transportation Board 1925 K Street Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Via facsimile and UPS Overnight Delivery

Re:

FD No. 34392

New Jersey Rail Carrier, LLC - Acquisition and Operation Exemption - Former Columbia Terminals, Kearny, NJ

Dear Mr. Williams:

This letter is being filed on \(\)ehalf of Consolidated Rail Corporation ("Conrail") in response to the above referenced examption filing by New Jersey Rail Carrier LLC ("NJRC"), and more specifically Petitioner's S atement that was filed with the Board on October 14, 2003.

In addition to reviewing Petitioner's Statement, Conrail has met with NJRC to learn more about its proposed rail venture and how it might interface with or impact Conrail's operations. Conrail understands that the intention of NJRC is to restore and build new track infrastructure that could serve an area known as Columbia Terminals and adjoining industrial property all of which are located on an approximate 50 acre peninsula in Kearny, New Jersey (the "Peninsula"). NJRC is itself a tenant on a fifteen-acre parcel but intends to assist the various property owners in attracting new tenants to the Peninsula by offering rail switching and transloading services. Conrail currently provides sporadic rail service to one customer located on the Peninsula.

At this juncture, as noted by NJRC, there are no interchange, operating or lease agreements between Conrail and NJRC respecting either interchange of rail traffic between the two companies or use by NJRC of a 17 Conrail owned track within or outside the Peninsula. However, Conrail has no reason to believe that it will not be able to come to terms with NJRC regarding any such agreements that may be necessary to allow NJRC to provide the contemplated switching services within the Peninsula.

While Conrail reserves its rights to continue to service its existing customer and any new customers who locate within the Peninsula, we are hopeful that NJRC will be successful in providing efficient, cost-effective switching and terminal services, thereby generating new rail traffic, which it will be able to interchange with Conrail as contemplated in its filing. Conrail will continue to work with NJRC on the various engineering, transportation and real estate issues presented by its filing.

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Finally, Conrail relies on NIRC's representations regarding its efforts to obtain the necessary state permitting to allow it to handle containerized solid waste and construction and demolition and therefore, does not oppose such operations so long as they are in full compliance with local, state and federal law.

Sincerely,

Jonathan M. Broder

Vice President-General Counsel &

Corporate Secretary

2001 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19103

215-209-5020

c: Fritz R. Kahn, Esq. (via facsimil=)
Steven J. Madonna, Esq. (via facsimile)
Edward D. Greenberg, Esq (via facsimile)
John V. Edwards, Esq. (via facsimile)

FAX	Date 12/5/03 Number of pages including cover sheet	
70: Hon Vernon A. Williams 202-565-9004	FROM:	John Enright Conrail
(,,03,, 3,30, 1,31,	Phone	215-209-5012
	FAX:	215-209-4819
REMARKS: Urgent For your review	FAX:	215-209-4819

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